LOCAL MEETING OF THE LIVERPOOL MEMBERS.

At a Meeting of Members and Associates held by the invitation of Mr. Readwin, at his house at Tuebrook, on Saturday, May 5, 1877.

Mr. Mason, F.C.S., was voted unanimously to the chair.

Mr. Readwin opened the Meeting by observing that he had taken the liberty of inviting them to assemble at his private house, for the first Meeting in that neighbourhood, in consequence of the great number (and delicacy of some) of the specimens from his Gold-garden, which he wished to introduce in illustration of a paper of rather a novel character, that he had recently prepared, and which he proposed to submit to the Meeting.

The Members and Associates present were:—

Mr. Alfred H. Mason, F.C.S.,
Mr. T. Williams, F.C.S.,
Mr. T. A. Readwin, F.C.S., M.R.I.A. } Members.

Mr. G. F. Morton,
Mr. J. Talbot Stowell, } Associates.

A resolution was then proposed by Mr. Readwin, seconded by Mr. Mason, and carried unanimously—

That a Branch of the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland be and is hereby established in the Liverpool District.

Mr. Readwin introduced the Visitors:—

Mr. G. H. Morton, F.G.S., Hon. Sec., Liverpool Geological Society.
Mr. T. J. Moore, Curator of the Liverpool Free-Public Museum.
Mr. W. Semmens, Lecturer on Mineralogy, Liverpool.
Mr. W. M. Hutchings, Metallurgist, Birkenhead.
Mr. J. M. Cornforth, of Tuebrook.

It was then proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously—

That Mr. T. A. Readwin do allow himself to be elected Local Secretary for the Liverpool district of the Society, subject to the approval of the Council.

Mr. Readwin having expressed concurrence with the proposal, the Chairman called upon him to read the paper he had just alluded to—"On Mineral-Growth at ordinary temperatures, and under ordinary conditions."

This was done at considerable length, the author exhibiting during the course of his reading and incidental explanations, more

than one hundred Mineral specimens from about 500 at hand, in proof of the rather novel proposition he had enunciated.

He also exhibited specimens of copper regulus and argentite, and of artificial disulphide of copper, shewing "growths" at moderately low temperatures, which he had that morning received from Mr. Hutchings, being some of the results of his recent experiments.

Mr. Moore introduced a most exquisitely beautiful bird-nest-like intertwined mass of Gold-growths from California, affording a very strong and unexpected additional proof of the truth of the present proposition.

Mr Readwin added that in addition to the gold-growths in the University Museum, at Aberdeen, which he had exultingly pointed out about this time last year to his friend, the veteran Mineralogist, Professor Nicol, he had, within the last 24 hours, pointed out to the courteous curator of the Liverpool Museum, 3 or 4 instances of Gold-growth (one of remarkable character) in the Mineral collection of that institution.

The Chairman remarked that the subject of spontaneous Metal-growth was so novel that it was rather difficult to realise it—yet, from the great number of proofs present, it was still more difficult to doubt it. For his own part he could hardly bring his mind to adopt the term "growth" for the facts, and asked whether "fructification" would not do better?

Mr Readwin thought it premature to use the term just suggested, as no good *fruit* had appeared at present.

Mr Hutchings observed that it opened up quite a new field for interesting investigation. What astonished him most was the very large number of gold-growths in quartz only, unassociated with other metallic substances.

All present expressed the pleasure they had derived from what they had heard and seen that afternoon, and the thanks of the meeting were unanimously voted to Mr Readwin.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

From *Reale Comitato Geologico d'Italia.* Bolletino, Nos. 3 and 4, 1877.

„ *Prof. P. Groth, Strasburg.*—Zeitschrift für Krystallographie und Mineralogie. Heft. 3 und 4.

„ *Prof. Jas. D. Dana, Newhaven.*—American Journal of Science, May and June, 1877.

„ *Mr. E. Bertrand.*—Note sur la forme cristalline du Melinophane.